



Your business
is our business.

REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 23, 2015

Accepted / Filed

JUN 23 2015

Via Hand Delivery

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2015 ETC Annual Report of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 240538**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Piedmont"), JSI files the attached confidential and redacted versions of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.¹ Piedmont seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.² The redacted version is also being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of its Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan as required by Section 54.313(a)(1).³

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

cc: Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division (two copies, confidential)

No. of Copies rec'd 0+3
List ABCDE

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Protective Order, DA 12-1857 rel. Nov. 16, 2012 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313(a)(1).

Echelon Building II, Suite 200
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane
Bountiful, UT 84010
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**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58
2015 ETC Annual Report of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Study Area Code 240538
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,¹ withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).²

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").³
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(1), Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Progress Report") which is contained in the attachment to the 2015 Report.⁴
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

² 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

³ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(1).

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phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124

4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."⁵ The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.

⁵ See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Five-Year Plan to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.
7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall
JSI Vice President
301-459-7590
jkuykendall@jsitel.com

<010> Study Area Code 240538

<015> Study Area Name PIEDMONT RURAL COOP

<020> Program Year 2016

<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data Brandi Thompson

<035> Contact Telephone Number: 8646833730 ext. Number of the person identified in data line <030>

<039> Contact Email Address: brandit@prtcom.com Email of the person identified in data line <030>

Accepted / Filed

JUN 23 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS		Completed	Comments
<100>	Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	(check box when complete)
<200>	Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	
<210>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		
<300>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) 0		
<310>	Detail on Attempts (voice)		
<320>	Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) 0		
<330>	Detail on Attempts (broadband)		
<400>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		
<410>	Fixed 0.0		
<420>	Mobile 0.0		
<430>	Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		
<440>	Fixed 0.0		
<450>	Mobile 0.0		
<500>	Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	
<510>	240538SC510.pdf	(attached descriptive document)	
<600>	Functionality in Emergency Situations	(check to indicate certification)	
<610>	240538SC610.pdf	(attached descriptive document)	
<700>	Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	
<710>	Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	
<800>	Operating Companies and Affiliates	(complete attached worksheet)	
<900>	Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?	(if yes, complete attached worksheet)	
<1000>	Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes	
<1010>		(attach descriptive document)	
<1100>	Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)	(if not, check to indicate certification)	
<1110>		(complete attached worksheet)	
<1200>	Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	

Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

<2000> (check to indicate certification)

<2005> (complete attached worksheet)

Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000> (check to indicate certification)

<3005> (complete attached worksheet)

**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com
<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<111>		(yes / no) <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

240538ec112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Not Applicable

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

[illegible]

FORM 1041-100-0000, OMS Control No. 3060-0819

<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

1/1/2015

[illegible]

OPDS Case No. 3060-0819 / OMB Control No. 3060-0819

[illegible]

2025 Release under E.O. 14176, OMB Control No. 3045-0047

<810>	Reporting Carrier	Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

-- See attached worksheet --

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting
Data Collection Form**

FD-900 (Rev. 9-81)

GSA Control No. 3060-0086/GN18 Control No. 3060-0819

JUN 2015

<010> Study Area Code	240538
<015> Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting	
Data Collection Form	
USAC Control No. 3060 0819	

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
Lifeline
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 483
 OMB Control No. 3060-0066/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
 Jan 2013

<010> Study Area Code	240538
<015> Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

240538SC1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

OMB Control No. 3045-0047 OMB Control No. 3045-0019

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	
<020>	Program Year	FIELDMONT RURAL COOP
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	2016
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	BRANDI THOMPSON
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	8886635730 ext.
		brandit@prcom.com

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i)
- <2011a> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)
- <2011b> Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))
- <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))
- <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))

- <2016> Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification
- <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification
- <2019> Interim Progress Certification
- <2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

- <2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

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(b)(5) Blank of Return Carrier Administrative Documentation
Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	ELMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	854693730 ext.
<035>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	branditp@com.com

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3010)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i))	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
			240538SC3010.pdf

(3011)	Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------	--	-------------------------------------

(3012)	Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
			240538SC3012.pdf

(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------	---	-------------------------------------

(3016)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
			240538SC3017.pdf

(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	---	--------------------------

(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	--	--------------------------

(3019)	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	--	--------------------------

(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	---	--------------------------

(3021)	Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	--	--------------------------

(3022)	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	--	--------------------------

(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	--	--------------------------

(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	---	--------------------------

(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	---	--------------------------

(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------	---	--------------------------

	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
--	--	--

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(3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prt.com.com

Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3045-0046/OMB Control No. 3045-0049 JAN 2011
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<010> Study Area Code	240538
<015> Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



<010> Study Area Code	240538
<015> Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandit@prtcom.com

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>John Staurulakis, Inc.</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Name of Reporting Carrier:	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Kara Horner
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Controller
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	8646823131 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240538 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	John Staurulakis, Inc.
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2015
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Lans Chase
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Staff Director - Regulatory
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	7705692015 ext.1
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	240538 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Attachments

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 112

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and
Progress Report**

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s demonstration of complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for voice and broadband services:

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,¹ the FCC found that an ETC must make "a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers."² The FCC found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA's Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.³ In this context, the FCC stated, "to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement."⁴

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Piedmont") hereby certifies that it is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. Piedmont is subject to consumer protection obligations under both federal and South Carolina state law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) filing a Local Exchange Tariff pursuant to the requirements of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina which disclose rates, and terms and conditions of service to customers (Section 103-612.2.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (2) adherence to state consumer protection requirements governing telephone providers which govern Standards and Quality of Service (Sections 103-661, 103-662, and 103-663 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Customer Relations, including billing,

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) ("*2005 ETC Order*").

² *Id.* at para. 28.

³ *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: "(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy." *Id.* at n. 71.

⁴ *Id.* at n. 72.

deposits, discontinuance and termination of service (Sections 103-620 through 103-633 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Engineering and Safety Standards (Sections 103-640 through 103-646 and 103-670 through 103-672 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Inspections and Tests (Sections 103-650 through 103-653 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); Records and Reports (Sections 103-610 through 103-619 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations) and Customer Complaints (Section 103-628 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); (3) truth-in-billing requirements (Section 103-622.1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations); and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules and other applicable federal and state requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

Piedmont is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in 47 CFR § 8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the 2015 Open Internet Order when it becomes effective.

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative's demonstration of ability to function in emergency situations for voice and broadband services:

Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Piedmont") hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)¹ and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Piedmont's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2) and Section 103-646 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations. Piedmont can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Piedmont to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require. In addition, Piedmont has redundancy for connectivity purposes *via* additional routes and electronic equipment for voice and broadband services.

Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. Piedmont has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as Piedmont has access to fuel.

¹ Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."

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(700) Price Offerings Including Volatile Rate Data
Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandi@prtc.com

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

<703>

[illegible]

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(710) Broadband Price Offerings
Data Collection Form

FILE NO. 100-338600, Control No. 3960-0819

<010>	Study Area Code	240538
<015>	Study Area Name	PIEDMONT RURAL COOP
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Brandi Thompson
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	8646833730 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	brandi@prt.com

<711>

[illegible]